

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Epidemic Situation of the East German Population	DATE DISTR.	15 April 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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1.  the general epidemiological situation of the East German population in mid to late January 1953 is viewed as follows: 25X1
2. The number of cases of infectious intestinal diseases, typhus, abdominalis, paratyphoid and dysentery, is much lower than the number reported in the previous months or in 1951. There are no epidemics. The number of cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever has also decreased. Many of the cases of scarlet fever, however, have been very light, in which case a doctor was probably not called and which fact erroneously indicated a lowered figure in the number of cases.
3. The poliomyelitis figures have, because of the time of year, reached their lowest point. The figures for tuberculosis of all types also show a decline, although the tubercular specialists are disputing with the Ministry whether or not this reflects the trend of the incidence of the disease accurately.
4. a. Causing the Ministry much concern at the moment is the outbreak of rabies in Thuringia. In December 1952, 132 persons were bitten by animals known or suspected to be rabid. The figures for January were showing an increase. Inoculation of those bitten in Thuringen is now being carried out in Erfurt. All other cases are sent to Prof. Friedrich Sartorius' Institut fuer Tollwutschutzimpfung in Potsdam.
- b. Professor Sartorius is being helped by Dr. med. Guenther Starke of the Ministry who was formerly with Professor Dr. med. vet. Heinz Roehrer of the Forschungsanstalt fuer Tierseuchen, Insel Riems.
- c. Detachments of Peoples' Police from East Berlin have gone to the Eisenach area to shoot stray animals.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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5. Hepatitis epidemica figures have risen, too. This is attributed largely to better diagnosis by the doctors, following continued Ministerial education on the subject. The large outbreaks of past months, notably in Wismut AG, have made this disease, once hardly recognized by many doctors, prominent in East German epidemiology.
6. Encephalitis figures have also risen as compared with previous months. This rise is accounted for by an increase of vaccinal encephalitis (Pockenencephalitis). There were actually several cases of this in Kreis Doberan, Mecklenburg, as long ago as last summer and in December 1952 there were four cases among children in East Berlin (Frenzlauerberg district): two were fatal.
7. Meningitis epidemica figures are higher than usual but there is some doubt as to whether the statisticians have not included some cases of encephalitis.
8. No case of true virus influenza (virus grippe) has yet been confirmed in East Germany this winter, although some of the symptoms in the cases of influenza are similar to those of a true virus influenza. The People's Police and the National Army have begun inoculations against virus influenza. In late January, the Bezirk health authorities also began to order vaccine, through the Ministry, from Dr. Belian's works, the Impstoffwerk Schoeneweide, Berlin-Niederschoteneweide, Koellnische Str. 3-4, tel. Berlin 63 33 86.

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